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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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GENERAL NURI SAID

WE REJOICE TO HAVE YOU AT OUR SIDE

WHEN His Majesty's Government first accepted responsibility for guiding the future of the new kingdom of Iraq, they made her complete and early independence their goal. The goal was reached ten years ago, and since then, the enemies of our two countries have spared no efforts to disturb our friendly relations. They have been lavish with falsehoods and have even resorted to force, but they could achieve no lasting success. The Iraqi Parliament, by a free and independent exercise of its constitutional powers, has now, on its own initiative, decided to show the world Iraq's adherence to the aims and ideals of the United Nations and her fundamental opposition to the dark forces which seek to enslave humanity

The struggle will be hard but the end is sure, and we rejoice to have you at our side

MR. CHURCHILL, in a message to General Nuri Said, Premier of Iraq

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Running Commentary

President Roosevelt's Warning and the Bombing of Berlin.

President Roosevelt, in his message to the Congress on 7th January, said, "I do believe this year of 1943 will give to the United Nations a very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin, Rome and Tokyo." A week after, a strong force of heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force attacked Berlin. According to the Berlin correspondent of the *Svenska Dagbladet*, Berlin's anti-aircraft barrage was the heaviest yet heard. It is reported that a great weight of high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped and many large fires were seen. This is the R.A.F.'s 54th attack on Berlin. The R.A.F. again bombed Berlin on January 17. What was described as the greatest R.A.F. offensive against Berlin was carried out 14 months ago, that is, on the night of December 7, 1941. The Soviet Air Force had also bombed Berlin a number of times. Moscow announced in September last year that Berlin had been raided 12 times by Soviet bombers during the preceding 12 months.

All these show the growing air power of the United Nations. President Roosevelt has laid special stress on this in his message to the Congress and drawn attention to the importance of air power in all theatres of war. He said he could not tell when or where the United Nations were going to strike next in Europe, but they were going to strike, and strike hard. "I can tell you," he said, "that no matter where and when we strike by land, we and the British and the Russians will hit them from the air daily and relentlessly. Day in, and day out, we shall heap tons upon tons of high explosives on their war factories, utilities and sea ports." He pointed out that the advantage of superior air power enjoyed by the Nazis when they bombed Warsaw and Rotterdam, London and Coventry, had gone for ever. As regards production of aeroplanes and tanks in 1942 he said it was something of which they had reason to be proud. In Africa they were shooting two enemy planes to each one they lost, and in the South-west Pacific they were shooting them down four to one.

U. S. STEEL PRODUCTION

The United States steel production for 1943 will approach twice the combined output of the Axis powers. Mr. Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board, says that the total production of Germany, Italy and Japan is estimated at 50,000,000 to 55,000,000 ingot tons annually. The United States steel capacity has already been increased to more than 89,000,000 tons. On completion of the expansion programme in the middle of 1943, the production capacity will be about 97,000,000 tons.

It may be pointed out that the kind of bombing which is going on in the Pacific does not nearly approach the scale of the R.A.F. raids on Germany. In the American raid on Wake Island on December 24, which is said to be largest raid so far by the U.S. Army Air Arm in the Pacific, 36 tons of bombs were dropped, which is 9 tons less than even the first big R.A.F. raid of the war in May 1940 on Sylt. Since then, bomb loads have been many times multiplied.

THE NORTH AFRICA OPERATIONS: SCENES AT ALGIERS AND SURCOUF.—Allied forces landed in North Africa from the greatest fleet of transports ever used in a single military operation and after slight opposition, landings were effected at a number of points along the coast. The fleet was conveyed by the British and American navies and powerful aerial protection was provided by carrier-based aircraft. Photo shows guns being man-handled off the beach by American troops after they had landed from landing craft.

But it may be remembered that in the Pacific the range problems of bombers are enormous, and every step, whether at Gudalcanar, or at Buna, or elsewhere, is a step towards a fresh air base, and each step means sea action and land action, neither of which can take place without air action. The Coral Sea and the Midway victories in the Pacific were due to air strength. Now gradually Americans are acquiring stepping stones for the return journey to Japan, which the President has promised. No one can say exactly when Tokyo will be bombed in 1943. But the mounting air power of the United States shows that when the bombing begins it will be with as much force as possible.

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Roosevelt's Ambitious Production Plan and its Remarkable Results.

It is of interest to refer to some of the American war production figures. A year ago, President Roosevelt set up certain goals for American production in the coming year. Those figures were so high that many people thought they were intended as mere propaganda with which to frighten the Axis. On January 7, 1942, President Roosevelt set the following goals for American war production for that year :—

Aircraft	60,000
Tanks	45,000
Merchant shipping ..	8 million dead-weight tons.

This was a highly ambitious plan. For, the whole American economy had to be transferred to a war-time footing

before the programme could be implemented. It was no easy task that faced the American factories. Skilled labour had to be augmented and mobilised, claims of competing industries had to be adjusted, priorities had to be allocated, and raw materials needed for war production had to be diverted from civilian consumption. All these had to be done before the actual goods could be turned out of the factories. And the most remarkable thing was the amazing speed and efficiency with which the American nation which, only twelve months ago, was primarily occupied in satisfying peace-time needs, was able to put itself on a war-time footing.

A glance at the following figures for 1941 and 1942 give an idea of this amazing change :—

	1941.	1942.
Aircraft ..	19,000	49,000
Tanks ..	16,000	32,000
Merchant shipping.	1,100,000 dead-weight tons.	8,200,000 dead-weight tons.

It will be seen that in only one of the three categories of war production was the President's goal reached, viz., merchant shipping. It became clear, soon after Pearl Harbour, that the greatest demand on American production would be in regard to merchant shipping. The war had become global, allied lines of communication had lengthened, and reinforcements had to be sent not only to Britain and the Middle East, but also to the South-west Pacific. Therefore, merchant shipping was given priority above all other branches of war production, because without ships other war materials could not be made effective. So greater concentration was made on building more and more ships, and this was the reason why the production of air-craft and tanks could not attain the goal which the President set before the nation. But still the air power of America and the United Nations is mounting up and up, and the bombing of Berlin is just a preliminary indication of the real march on the road to the Axis capitals referred to by the President.

* * *

Extra-Territorial Rights in China. One of the most outstanding events in international relationship, almost revolutionised by the events of the war and the terms of the Atlantic Charter, is the conclusion of the treaties just signed between China on the one hand and Great Britain and America on the other, relinquishing for ever the latters' extra-territorial rights in China. These treaties are significant of the deep desire of Britain and America to remove the last vestige of territorial aggression in international relations and to establish, and at the same time enforce recognition by others, the ultimate and supreme sovereignty of China as a nation. So far as Britain and America are concerned, and particularly

Initiative with the Allies

We can view the successes of 1942 with sober satisfaction and look forward to 1943 with justifiable confidence. Everywhere the initiative has passed into the hands of the United Nations . . . The Russian advance continues sweeping down towards Rostov, rolling up the German right flank in the Caucasus while at Leningrad, Veliki Luki and Voronezh renewed blows are being delivered. This great feat during the winter will surely take its place in history as an outstanding achievement . . . In North Africa Rommel's record retreat has begun again . . . In Burma, the initiative has changed hands . . . The Government is resolved during 1943 in the closest co-operation with all our Allies to strike at the enemy by land, sea and air everywhere with the utmost vigour and determination.

—MAJOR CLEMENT ATTLEE, *Deputy Prime Minister, in the House of Commons, on January 19.*

Britain, this selfless gesture of goodwill is only the culmination of a consistent policy of helping China to reorganize herself on modern lines as a first rate political power. Even during the middle of the nineteenth century, the Chinese, says Sir John Pratt, had no conception of the new international world in which China was being enveloped or of the new forces, material and spiritual, that western science had called into the arena. "In their eyes China was the whole civilized world, the Middle Kingdom surrounded by humble and admiring barbarians." It was, from the very commencement of her relationship with China in 1715, the desire of Great Britain, with a commanding lead in commerce, finance, shipping and industry, to see China prosperous, and though in seeking to further this desire, she had two occasions to come in clash with the Imperial Majesty of the Middle Kingdom, she did not give up her policy of helping China, whenever possible, to establish a strong central government which alone could hold together the vast and scattered areas of the Empire.

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Nine-Power Treaty : Credit due to Britain. It is needless to recount the development of this policy; but it is enough to note that the Washington Conference of 1921 which Britain and America so much tried to bring about ended in the famous Nine-Power Treaty by which the "Powers agreed to co-operate in maintaining the principle of the open door and equal opportunity and in promoting the economic and political rehabilitation of China." Great credit is due to Britain for having organized the conclusion of this treaty, because she, of all others, was the object of a deep misunderstanding by Nationalist China who had in 1911 expelled the Imperial dynasty of the Manchus and established a republic with Nanking as the Capital. On September 18, 1931 Japan, however, defied the terms of this treaty and attacked China in Manchuria. Britain still adhered to her policy of sympathetic alliance, helped China in her financial reorganization through the Leith Ross Commission, and made the last effort in 1935 to restore the balance of power in the Far East by proposals for international collaboration when Japan was persisting in her aggression in Manchuria. All this time America was more or less only a silent spectator of events on account of her isolationist policy; but this policy had to be given up after the attack on Pearl Harbour in preference to an active policy of establishing American supremacy in the Pacific. Now Britain and America are determined to see China free and independent and the present act of selflessness is only a gesture of goodwill in which America has led the way. Britain retains hereafter only her rights in Weihaiwei which she originally got with a view to counteract the Russian occupation of Port Arthur, and her rights over Kowloon, a strip of territory on the mainland opposite Hongkong which is entirely on a different footing from the spheres of influence and interest. Kowloon is on a lease from the Chinese Government and has no political complexion for its retention. It need not frighten any one, because Britain has given up rights which are more valuable and more serious than one based on a lease contract.

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Iraq Joins United Nations Iraq has declared war against Germany, Italy and Japan and joined the ranks of the United Nations. This is the first time in history that an independent Arab State declared war on the enemies of Great Britain as Great Britain's ally. Iraq's entry into the world war is welcomed by Britain. It may be recalled that Britain was closely associated with Iraq both during and after the last great war. Diplomatic relations with Germany were broken off by Iraq in this war in September 1939, with Italy in June 1941, and with Japan and Vichy in November 1941. Last year the Germans tried their best to disturb the cordiality of Anglo-Iraqi

POST-WAR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

"The Government's intention is to prepare a common programme of post-war economic co-operation in consultation with the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union and other Governments of the United Nations, and considerable progress has been made by our Government in the preparatory work required for their part in the formulation of such a programme."

—Mr. ANTHONY EDEN,
in a statement in the Commons on January 20.

relations. In April 1941 the Germans stage-managed a *coup d'etat* in Iraq through Rashid Ali. This plan failed and Rashid Ali was forced to flee the country.

Latterly the Axis powers have been persisting in their hostile attitude towards Iraq. They have been broadcasting comments from their wireless stations against Iraq and her interests and have been trying to promote differences and disunity among the people of Iraq by disseminating rumours and false news with a view to endangering public order and security. Axis radio stations have also been making statements disrespectful of the Royal family of Iraq, which were calculated to undermine the loyalty of the people. Further, they also encouraged certain outlaws who wanted to subvert the established Government by force of arms. All these factors forced the Iraqi Government to declare war against the Axis powers. A statement issued by the Iraqi Government adds that "it is in the interest of Iraq in particular and the Arabs in general to adhere to the declaration of the United Nations." This declaration has been welcomed by Mr. Churchill in a telegram to the Iraqi Prime Minister. Mr. Churchill draws attention to the fact that the Iraqi Parliament has, on its own initiative, by a free and independent exercise of its constitutional powers, declared war on the Axis. He adds, "The struggle will be hard, but the end is sure and we rejoice to have you on our side." Iraq which Britain helped to create during the first world war has now thrown herself fully on the side of the 26 Nations and signified its adherence to the United Nations' declaration.

* * *

On the Russian Front : German Defeat According to Russian Plan

The situation of German armies in Russia has well been summed up by Paul Winterton, the *News Chronicle* Correspondent. In a cable to the B.B.C., he says: "Though the Germans put up a stiff resistance here and there, they are short of manpower. It is not retreat according to plan, but defeat according to plan—the Russian plan. From the air, it is perfectly obvious that the Nazis have abandoned immense quantities of materials some of which are in good condition." Russian forces are progressing rapidly in their smashing three-pronged offensive.

In the North Caucasus, they are threatening Armavir, the key railway junction on the Rostov-Trans-Caucasian Railway. Soviet strategy here is governed by the fact that there is a north-south railway running from Rostov to Grozny and a east-west railway running from Stalingrad to Novorossisk. Some hundred miles below Rostov is Tikhoretsk, at the junction of these two railways, and seventy-five miles north-east of this town is Salsk. If the Russians can take Salsk and Tikhoretsk, they will jeopardize, to a serious extent, the German forces which are falling back on to Rostov.

In the Don region Russian forces are approaching the Donetz on a wide front and are within a few miles of its confluence with the Don. Furious fighting is going on in the Middle Don and the Russian columns converging on Rostov are making steady progress.

In the Central Front, there are heavy German counter-attacks in the Velikie Luki section, which is not a matter for surprise. For it was here that the German High Command concentrated shock troops. They have now conceded the fall of Velikie Luki into Russian hands, but were denying it previously, because they thought that without considering the cost the German troops could break through to the Don and retake it. But their plans were forestalled by the Soviet Command. By incessant blows they have weakened the German forces and made it impossible for them to recapture Velikie Luki, which since January 1st is in Soviet hands.

The most welcome news is, of course, the raising of the siege of Leningrad. After 16 months, Russia's second great city, has been relieved, and the Nazi hordes have been driven back.

On the side of Britain

Iraq stands on the side of her ally Britain, both out of loyalty to obligations and dictates of her own interest. Iraq wants wholeheartedly to bind her destiny to that of the United Nations and to support them in their fight.

—"*AL-SHIBAB*," *a Baghdad journal.*

The Commander-in-Chief, Southern Army

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR NOEL BERESFORD-PEIRSE who recently visited Madras and met the press representatives at a Conference.

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LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR NOEL BERESFORD-PEIRSE, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., popularly known as "B.P." He is 53 and is G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Army, which is defending the entire Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

He was first commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1907. He served in the South African War, and later in the Great War of 1914-18. He commanded a battery in Mesopotamia and Egypt and was awarded a D.S.O. after the capture of Baghdad, and became Brigade Major in France in 1918.

After the war, he attended a course at the Staff College at Camberley and went to the War Office in 1929.

In 1936 he came to India in command of an artillery regiment and in 1940 went overseas as C.R.A. of the 4th Indian Division. Shortly afterwards he became B.R.A. at the G.H.Q., Middle East. In August 1940 he got command of the famous 4th Indian Division. His brilliant capture of Sidi Barrani earned him a K.B.E. He commanded the 4th Indian Division when it captured Agordat and Koren.

Later in 1941 he commanded the Western Desert Force and became G.O.C., Sudan.

He then came to India and commanded a Corps in the Eastern Army. Now he is the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Army.

His motto is "Not a seat, but a springboard."

The Futility of Fear

By THE HON. MR. JUSTICE S. WADSWORTH, I.C.S.

WE have been talking a good deal about events in Calcutta during the last week or two and there has been quite a lot of speculation as to the chance of similar raids on Madras. My own opinion, which is probably worthless, is that serious air-raids on Madras are not very likely in present conditions; but none can say that they are impossible. And so long as raids are possible we shall have to go on preparing for them.

But I am inclined to think that we attach too much importance to air-raids. I don't mean to underrate the effect of large-scale attacks, such as were made on London, though even these did not stop London from working. I refer to the tip-and-run raids by small numbers of aircraft, such as Calcutta has been experiencing. No doubt they are very disturbing to sleep and they involve an infinitesimal proportion of the population in acute personal danger. But if we can only see these inconveniences and dangers in their proper proportions, we shall realise that there is nothing to run away from.

After all, there is no such thing as absolute safety. Apart from the natural perils of storm, flood and earthquake and the ever-present danger of epidemics, we live in an age when civilization itself has added to the dangers of life. Consider the disastrous figures of motor-car accidents in any large town. Yet people don't run away to the country for fear of being knocked down by a lorry in the streets of the city. They take this risk as one of the incidental disadvantages of town life and by keeping their eyes open and taking reasonable precautions, they hope to avoid coming into sudden contact with an onrushing car. They know quite well that if they live in the country to avoid the danger of city traffic, they may quite well perish in an epidemic caused by the lack of city sanitation. I wish we could get into the habit of regarding this air-raid danger as something akin to the traffic danger. In point of figures, the traffic danger is probably the worse by far of the two—always excepting the results of concentrated attacks by large forces of heavy bombers, such as the Japs do not seem to possess. It is also evident from the official reports that casualties in these raids, just like traffic casualties, are to a very large extent due to the carelessness of the victim.

DANGER CAN BE AVOIDED

The great majority of bombs, particularly bombs of small calibre, kill nobody at all. The newspaper accounts seem to show that the Japanese are using mainly what are known as "anti-personnel" bombs, which are very dangerous to people standing about in the open, but not very likely to demolish buildings or to injure people who have taken shelter. That is to say, they present a danger which to a large extent can be avoided by taking care.

Should Madras be attacked from the air, the safety of the individual would be much greater than in a city less generously endowed with open spaces. No doubt there are parts of Madras which are much congested; but the city covers an enormous area, much of which is occupied by parks, compounds, wide roads and playing fields. Bombs dropped at random are likely to achieve a very small proportion of direct hits.

Presumably the Japs know this as well as we do. Probably also they know that anything in the way of daylight bombing would be extremely expensive. Why then, should they try and bomb Madras? Well, I don't pretend to be able to read the minds of the Japanese general staff, but presuming that they are intelligent men, as they undoubtedly are, the most obvious reason for them to try and bomb the cities of India would be to try and cause panic and interfere with communications and the ordinary life of the country. Anything which obstructs the working of railways, which prevents the flow of supplies, which interferes with the processes of manufacture, is worth doing, if it can be done without serious loss. Our business therefore is obviously to prevent them from achieving these objects.

WHAT A STORY!

A Staff Officer in the Western Desert, tired of office life, asked permission to go out on a camel with a tommy-gun, as a kind of one-man Commando. After much argument permission was granted.

For a long time nothing was heard of him. There was great excitement therefore when one day a message was received from him: "Rommel captured; returning to-day."

What a capture! What a story! All waited breathlessly for the hero's return with his distinguished prisoner.

Hopes were dashed, however, by a second message. It read: "For 'Rommel captured' read 'Camel ruptured.' Am returning to-day."

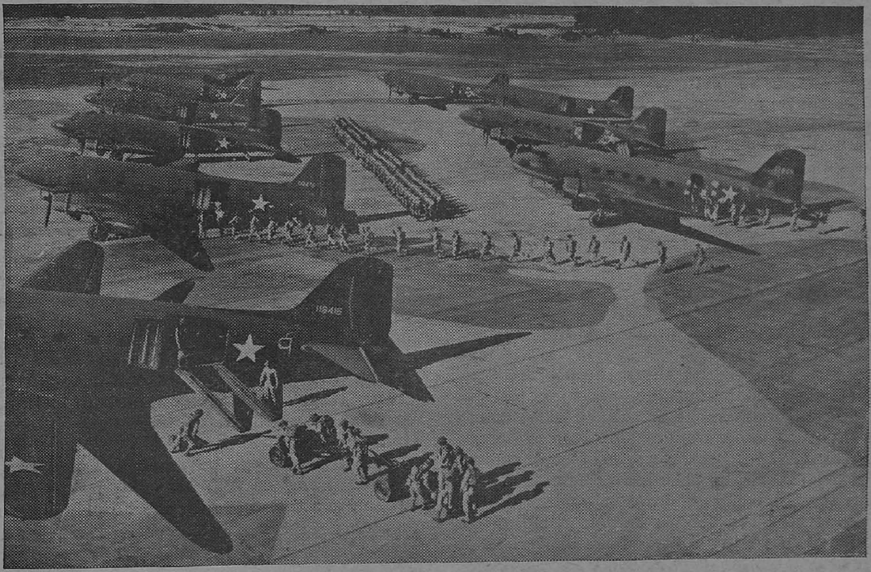
PANIC PARALYSES DEFENCE

How can we do this? Clearly, the better our defences, the more expensive their raids will be. But you and I are not responsible for defence, which is in the excellent hands of Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell, who is the right man for the job. But what you and I can do is to see that casual air raids do not cause panic out of all proportion to their real danger. Panic paralyses defence. Military operations depend to a large extent on the smooth working of the life of the country. The railways, the harbours, the post office and telephones, the lighting and water-supply, the shops and restaurants, the medical and sanitary services—all these are essential to the defence of the country. And it is our business to see that the ordinary workers stay at their posts and do not flock into the country if a stick of bombs is dropped in the neighbourhood. Even if no damage or casualties are caused, an attack would be deemed successful if it upset the life of this city at a time when important military movements were afoot.

We can therefore do much to thwart the object of air raids, by spreading the idea that they are nothing to get into a panic about. Of course they are always unpleasant and they are undoubtedly attended by a certain amount of danger. But the unpleasantness is no more than we can endure and the danger is no greater than an ordinarily resolute man or woman can meet with fortitude and cheerfulness.

Remember that the good name of the city of Madras lies in our hands. We are or ought to be proud of this beautiful and historic city of ours. Do we wish it to be said that we are a city of cravens, unable to stand a very small dose of the medicine which has been the daily diet of others less fortunately situated?

Think of Malta where the air raids are counted not in tens but in thousands. The people of that brave little island do not enjoy air raids. But they do not let their dislike of the danger prevent them from performing their daily duties. They have won for their native city a name which will ring down through the centuries. The lovely old buildings of Valetta may be shattered, but the work goes on and when victory is won, there will be no community in the world which will deserve the credit for it more than the gallant Maltese.



THE START OF AN AIR-LAND EXPEDITION.—Men of the Army's Airborne Command rush to enter the huge transport planes, while guns and machines are quickly placed aboard. The various ships will carry the following: One mortar, 1 machine-gun, 15 men, one 75-inch howitzer, 1 jeep, 8 men, 10 riflemen and ammunition; 16 parachutists, 2 anti-tank guns, ammunition, 11 men, 16 to 20 riflemen and equipment; 4 motor cycles, 4 bicycles, 12 men.

CHUNGKING'S ENDURANCE

Think of Chungking, which was battered to bits by bombs against which they had no effective defence. Thank God, they have now got the American Air Force to protect them and are no longer the helpless prey of the

Japanese. But before those defenders came to their help, when the bombers rained down death and destruction without any real hindrance, they endured it all with unflinching courage and set an example which we may well copy.

The other day I heard some foolish and thoughtless people say that it was a mistake to attack Burma, because this only brought reprisals on Calcutta. Just think for a moment what this means. It means that in order to save Calcutta from casualties such as may on any day be done by a few recklessly driven lorries or motor-cars, we should betray the Chinese by allowing the Burma road to remain in Japanese hands. It means that in order to escape for the moment a very inconsiderable danger, we should allow a deadly enemy of India and of the whole civilized world to establish himself on our very doorstep, where he can watch for a favourable opportunity to complete our destruction.

For the safety of India, it is essential that the Japanese should be driven out of Burma. For the safety of China, it is essential that the Burma road should be re-opened. For the safety of the world it is essential that the forces of aggression shall be curbed.

LIVE DANGEROUSLY

Some years ago a great traveller advised all young men to live dangerously. His idea was that all the best things of life are won by taking risks, that the misery of fear is greater by far than the actual danger warrants and that we should enure ourselves to danger just as we get ourselves inoculated against typhoid. Well in this brave new world in which we live, we have all got to live dangerously, whether we want to or not. We no longer have any option in the matter. The question is no longer whether we are going to undergo risks, but whether we are going to regard those risks in a sensible way or not. Very few people are really fearless. But there is a great difference between those who feel fear but vanquish it, and those who are a prey to their fears. Some people make their lives a perfect misery by giving way to fears, often conjured up by their own imagination. Not only do they make themselves miserable but they poison the air around them. There is nothing more infectious than fear. It spreads like a forest fire and is just as difficult to check. But we can do much to prevent panic from starting. One obvious way is to avoid all sorts of panicky talk. We should not join in defeatist conversation nor give any encouragement to those who love to dwell on the possibilities of disaster. If we have fears, let us keep them to ourselves and present a smiling face to the world whatever happens. If the unexpected happens and bombs fall amidst us, let us take cover till the raid is over and then go about our daily tasks, determined that no shortcomings of ours shall help the enemy to achieve his object. Let us remember that the enemy does not really want to kill us, but to frighten us; and if we refuse to be frightened, we defeat the main object of his raid. If others show signs of panic, let us reassure them by our courage. Let us above all make up our minds that whatever happens, the work of this city shall go on.

—*A Broadcast talk on January 18th.*

General le Clerc

THE daring and resourceful General le Cleric is to-day in the forefront of those battling to uphold the honour of France, writes W. M. Towler, in the *Daily Herald.*

His motorised cavalry, with some air support, has moved more than 1,000 miles from its base at Fort Lamy in the heart of Africa. Now they are battering at Rommel's side door on the borders of Tripolitania. If General le Clerc can make a flank attack on Rommel's forces round Tripoli, he will have accomplished one of the war's most spectacular feats.

His own career is just as spectacular. When the French armies collapsed in June 1940, he was an unknown cavalry captain. He was wounded and captured by the Germans but escaped by cycling into Vichy territory. Eventually, he reached London. De Gaulle promoted him Major and sent him to Africa to attempt to rally the French equatorial territory to the Allied cause. Le Clerc succeeded.

De Gaulle appointed him Lieutenant-Colonel and gave him command of the military forces in Chad territory. From there he organized an expedition into southern Libya which coincided with General Wavell's first offensive. Le Clerc captured the oasis of Kufra and won the first Fighting French victory over Axis forces. He was awarded the newly created French order of "Liberation" and the British D.S.O.

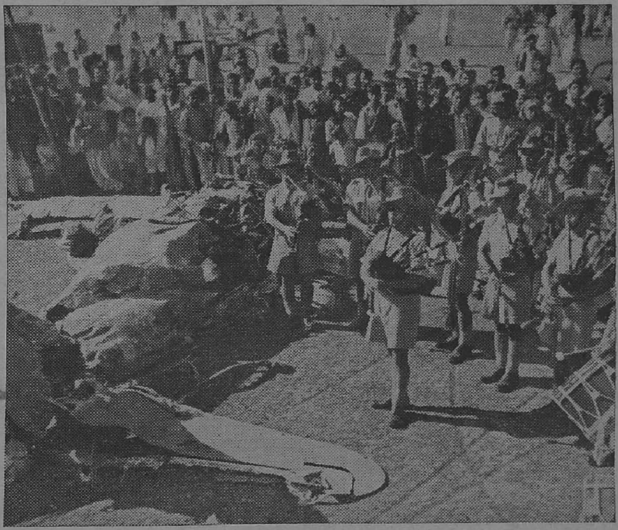
Vichy passed a sentence of death on him and De Gaulle retorted by giving him the rank of Colonel. Le Clerc returned to Chad after our setback in Libya last summer—but only to prepare for his present more powerful drive. Now with the rank of General—he is still under 40—he has led his men across hundreds of miles of waterless desert—to the battle zone of Fezzan in southern Libya. There they have dislodged and put to flight one Italian garrison after another. By organization and determination, le Clerc has triumphed over staggering difficulties.

Contrast between China and Japan

[The contrast between China and Japan is emphasized in a lengthy article in the British Catholic periodical "Month" for November-December 1942, by Peter Johnson, who makes the following points.]

CHINESE history is a record of expanding culture rather than of a conquering empire. The civilization which grew up in the Yellow River basin has been extended through colonization and peaceful reception by non-Chinese people and not—with a few exceptions—by armed force.

This expansion has gone on for 3,000 years at varying speeds. The process of absorption has sometimes been slow, but always complete and final. No territory once subjected to Chinese civilization has ever been lost, and no territory incorporated in a Chinese area has ever withstood the penetration of Chinese culture. The prestige of a nation which had originated Far Eastern culture, the easy tolerence of Chinese administration and the pervasive influence of Chinese literature combined to maintain Chinese rule over alien communities.



SMASHED RAIDERS.—A number of Japanese planes have been destroyed over Assam and Bengal. Some of them have been put on view so that the civil population can see what our defences do to uninvited guests. Photo shows a small section of the crowd that came to see the wreckage.

FLEXIBLE GOVERNMENT

The Chinese had established a system of government flexible and tolerant enough to allow subject peoples to fit into it. No attempt was made to suppress national dress or speech, and religious persecution was unknown. The army was recruited locally, and after the Ming conquest in 1368 there were no alien armies of occupation in China. The Chinese Government conceived its duties as keeping peace, raising taxes (which fell equally on Chinese and non-Chinese) and undertaking necessary public works such as irrigation.

THE JAPANESE WAY

It is difficult to imagine a greater contrast to this civilized outlook which produced the wise and benevolent regime of China than that which was found in China's near neighbour, Japan. There was no ethical basis for government in Japan. The Emperor was Emperor by hereditary divine right, not by divine appointment, and because he was worthy to rule. Whereas the Chinese revered their Emperor as a benevolent father and as a pattern of goodness, the Japanese worshipped their Emperor as God on earth. The Chinese conception of government by example allowed for and sanctified a revolution when the ruler had ceased to fulfil his functions of leadership. Benevolent absolutism was limited within bounds of utility, and when a dynasty had failed to fulfil its purpose, it was usually deposed and replaced by another.

There was—and could be—no question, however, of deposing the Japanese God-Emperor, though in practice all effective power was usurped by the Shogun or office of generalissimo invested for many generations in the house of Tokugawa. A revival of Shinto in the late 18th century brought about a rebellion against these upstart mayors of the palace, but the identification of the Emperor with the Government which followed, was a danger in itself. If the Emperor is a living God—and the Japanese really believe him to be such—his right to rule all peoples who can be

brought under Japanese sway can scarcely be questioned and any revolt against his authority becomes a sacrilege. And the Japanese, regarding themselves as descendants of the sun goddess, aim at nothing less than world domination: "haakko ichiu" or "all the world under one (and that Japanese) roof."

The difference between a civilized and an uncivilized race is nowhere more clearly seen than in the Chinese and Japanese approaches to other peoples and racial groups. The Chinese were content to leave others to assimilate their culture without coercing it upon them. They were conscious of the splendour and antiquity of their own civilization and they assumed that other peoples would be glad to emulate them—a message sent by the Manchu Emperor, Thien Lung, illustrates this attitude—but they seldom if ever tried to extend this civilization by aggrandisement and war.

MEN OF PEACE

Their character has not essentially changed. They have proved themselves willing and able to fight and win victories in defence of their country, but they are primarily interested in reconstructing their country for peace and in building up a new agricultural, educational and industrial system. Before the outbreak of the present war they did not concentrate, like the Japanese and Germans, on piling up stores of armaments, but learnt from the scientific and medical and educational experience of Western nations how to improve conditions of life among their own people.

The Japanese on the other hand have proclaimed their intention of coercing the whole of East Asia into accepting their version of the "New Order." They have imposed the "blessings of imperial rule" upon one race after another that has been too weak to resist them. Resistance to their divine mission is in their eyes a crime. Peoples who have been compelled to join their "Co-Prosperity Sphere" find that they have nothing to hope from their conquerors but oppression "worse than a tiger's" and exploitation.

The Arab's Faith

Any Arab with zeal for his honour and believing in his right to a free life and in the justice of his cause, cannot but declare his support to the United Nations. Thus we declare our point of view to all the world and will remain faithful to it for ever.

—"*AL-AKHBAR*," *a Baghdad journal.*

China's "Full Stature"

THE *Daily Herald* in an editorial says that from the beginning of China's national revolution, the abolition of "unequal treaties" was one of its cardinal aims. That aim is now achieved. In the Generalissimo's phrase, China to-day "assumes the full stature of an independent democratic nation."

This, let it be clear (continues the *Daily Herald*), is no part of the Far Eastern settlement that will have to be made when peace comes. Then there will have to be territorial changes ending past injustices. There will be security arrangements and economic provisions. It will be a formidable task for peacemakers.

All that is for the future for friendly negotiation among the United Nations. What has been achieved now is the ending of all legal foreign interference in China's internal affairs. China to-day has in law—and will, when the invader is expelled, have in fact—full and untrammelled sovereignty over her own territory.

"Servitudes" are ended. Britain and America, in gladly surrendering old privileges, welcome a gallant ally to the society of free nationhood.

"TRULY WON HONOUR"

If heroic and unconquerable patriotism is a title to national greatness, the Chinese people have well and truly won that honour, writes the *Daily Telegraph*. The new treaties between China and Britain and China and the United States register what is an accomplished fact—that China holds her place among the United Nations in complete equality of comradeship.

Help for China, as Field Marshal Smuts has said, is "one of the Allies' most important objects." Without the establishment of Chinese security and independence, the war will not be won. The magnificent resistance of the Chinese is a momentous factor in all strategy of the Far East.

That co-operation and goodwill which finds its machinery in the representation of the Chinese Government on the Pacific Council requires that China should exercise beyond doubt the full equality of a nation whom, in the Prime Minister's phrase, we are proud to acclaim as "fellow architects of victory." In the freedom after the peace the co-operation of China will be needed by America, Russia and Britain and the whole of mankind.

MUSSOLINI:—"Genoa. I'm worried!" **HITLER:—"And do you think I'm happy in here?"**

A Crucial Year for China

THE *National Herald* (organ of the Chinese Foreign Office) says : ' Militarily, the year 1942 has witnessed very little change in the respective positions of the Chinese and Japanese armies. The year has been marked by the absence of large-scale fighting. However, while the Japanese failed to make any substantial gains during the year, China's power of resistance has been on the up-grade notwithstanding the severance of the Burma Road and the attempt at tightening the blockade of Free China by the enemy. One of the most significant developments during the year as far as the Chinese war theatre is concerned is the wresting of the mastery of the air from the Japanese by Sino-American air forces. With the year 1942 drawing to a close, the Chinese people are eagerly anticipating that success in the Burma campaign will radically alter the Chinese position and will make possible an earlier realization of the eagerly awaited counter-offensive on the Asiatic mainland.

" The year 1943 is a crucial year for China. However, if given the necessary aid by her allies she certainly can weather the storm and leap the last hurdle on the road to victory."

YEAR OF VITAL CHANGE

The *Shih Shih Sin Pao* writes : " This year has witnessed a vital change in the world situation. The Axis tide has been ebbing on the various fronts and the Allies have been gradually wresting mastery from the enemy in the sea and air and on land. On the Chinese war front there have been no fresh successes gained by the enemy and the Japanese are still being held by Chinese troops on all fronts. Owing to the gallantry of the American air forces, the Japanese air forces have been forced on the defensive.

" In the South-West Pacific, the Allies gained the initiative by launching an offensive and the enemy is being reduced to extremity. Reviewing the whole world situation, we are gratified to note that the Allies have gained the initiative on every front. The year 1942 ends with tendencies of war continuing in favour of the Allies. The dark days are over. We are facing the new year with the brightest prospect."

TWENTY-NINE ALLIES

The *Ta Kung Pao* (Independent) says : " The year 1942 has seen the outbreak of the Pacific war and by the outbreak of the war China has gained 29 allies. But the year 1942 has proved the worst time for China since the commencement of her war of resistance. Viewing the situation as a whole, we believe that the Allies will be able to start a big offensive before the end of next year. Victory is determined by the use of the offensive. With an offensive launched by the Allies next year there is not the slightest doubt that the Allies will be able to gain final victory."

Pacific : Just the Overture !

THE *Ta Kung Pao* (Independent), referring to Japanese views of the world war situation published recently in Japanese magazines and papers, says : " Japanese writers are unanimous in bragging about their war achievements in the Pacific, but they all agree that the real battle in the Pacific has not yet been fought. In brief, the Japanese have realized that the Pacific war in its present stage is just the overture. Japan's fate is uncertain. We can find no real comfort of natural optimism for the Japanese from the articles in Japanese periodicals."

The *Chung Yang-Sao Tang Jih Pao* (Central Kuomintang and Government organ) writes : " President Roosevelt issued an important statement on the first anniversary of the alliance of the United Nations. The statement coincides with traditional beliefs of Chinese people. They will do their part to the best of their ability under the leadership of the Generalissimo."

The *Hsin Min Pao* (Business) writes : " We hope our Allies will pay attention to President Roosevelt's New Year message and work out a plan for post-war reconstruction without undue delay."

LIKE SHOVELLING SAND

" Fighting the Chinese is like shovelling sand. No sooner have the Japanese occupied and cleared out an area than gradually the Chinese begin to reappear. Conquering China, even if it could be done, would probably require a larger garrison force than the Japanese can afford."

GENERAL STILWELL, *in an interview to " New York Times."*

Story of the Siege of Malta

By GENERAL SIR WILLIAM DOBBIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O.

[General Sir William Dobbie was born in Madras in 1879. He was a classical scholar at Charterhouse and then went to the Royal Academy at Woolwich. He served throughout the last war and was mentioned in despatches seven times. From 1928–32 he was Brigade Commander in Egypt and from 1935–39 General Officer Commanding in Malaya. He served in Malta as Governor and Commander-in-Chief from 1940 until May 1942.]

THE story of the siege of Malta is not yet complete. Other glorious pages still remain to be written. But even so, it is permissible to examine the story so far as it goes, and draw lessons from it which may help us in the days of siege which still lie ahead. Wars and battles are not won only by material means, important as these things are. In the end it is, under God, the man and the spirit of man which count. The story of Malta is a notable example of this truth. It is a story of human endurance and determination triumphing often over a lack of material resources. It is in this that its value lies.

A word first about the people and the place. Malta is the most densely populated country in the world; with a population of well over a quarter of a million, it carries 2,700 persons for each square mile. The country therefore obviously cannot support itself in essential foodstuffs, although every square yard of suitable ground is cultivated. Most of its food and all its manufactured goods have to be brought in from outside. Thus the sea plays a decisive part in the well-being of Malta. For this reason Malta has always had a specially intimate connection with the Royal Navy, and Maltese men are to be found serving in most of His Majesty's ships and in many merchant vessels. Malta well understands the significance of the phrase 'command of the sea.'

This picture taken at an advanced air field in Algeria shows Air Marshal Sir William Welsh, Air Officer Commanding, North Africa, and other officers.

Malta is some sixty miles from Sicily and about a thousand miles from the nearest British territory. It is, in fact, the most exposed part of the British Empire. For this reason many persons, especially among our enemies, thought that Malta could not be held. The Italians openly boasted that it would be overrun and captured by them within the first few days of war. At that time, June 1940, when the resources of the British Empire were strained almost to breaking-point, the defensive strength of Malta was far less powerful than it is to-day. The Italians might surely have seized what

must have seemed to them a favourable opportunity to implement their boasts. But though they talked big, they acted small, and could never screw themselves up to taking the plunge and testing the defences of the island, which has remained in our hands and has been a veritable thorn in their side.

"HE IS ONLY ITALIAN"

Malta was the first place in the British Empire to experience serious aerial bombing. The people therefore had to face the unknown, which always has peculiar terrors of its own. In spite of the instructions and advice—largely based on theory—issued by the Government, Malta, like other places had o win its knowledge of how best to cope with these new perils in the hard school of experience. In this Malta had to lead the way, and right well did she face the issue. They say that familiarity breeds contempt, and a tendency soon showed itself—which persists to the present day—to treat the enemy with real contempt, especially if he was Italian. Men and women, and even children, were frequently heard to say of a raider: 'He is only Italian,' while they went on with their business. This tendency, of course, has to be checked, since even an Italian bomb can hurt if it hits one. Malta is blessed with a rock which is soft enough to work, but hard enough to stand up to the severest blows. This has meant much to the island, since it has enabled shelters to be built which really do give first-rate protection. If it were not for this the casualty list would have been infinitely higher. But though it might protect the people it could not protect their houses, and they would often emerge from their shelters only to find their homes a heap of ruins. It was a pathetic sight to see these people probing the debris, trying to extricate some of their furniture and household treasures. But I was immensely struck by the courage of these very people and their grim determination to see this thing through. More than once I have met such women by their ruined homes and they have said to me: 'We have lost all, but it does not matter so long as we win this war.'

One often wondered what would be the effect on children of the continuous alerts and raids. Generally speaking, they seemed to stand the strain remarkably well. The small boys, especially, appeared to derive actual enjoyment from the raids, a feeling which was not always shared by their elders and betters. They took the liveliest interest in what was happening. Their unbelievably keen eyes would spot the Messerschmitts or Junkers or the Italian Cants at distances beyond the powers of ordinary mortals, and follow the happenings in detail when our Spitfires came on the scene. When peace comes I am afraid they will find life rather dull. The education of these youngsters presented a difficult problem, but it had to be faced—to give these citizens of tomorrow as good a start in life as possible. Many of the schools were destroyed by bombs, others had to be used for hospitals, but by the exercise of ingenuity and by distributing classes in different buildings, a good degree of education has been maintained.

DESIRE TO HELP

Malta's isolation from the outside world, of course, deprived many persons of their livelihood. Importers, exporters, and businesses of all kinds were affected, as were also retail shops which could not adequately replenish their stocks. Thus many persons had to seek other means of livelihood, and many were absorbed in the Armed Forces of the various Government departments. The conscription of man-power for essential services reduced unemployment to a minimum. All these upheavals were generally accepted with good humour and a fine realism. And the people tried to help each other and the community. I remember once getting a letter from the boys of a village offering their services. Could they not make themselves useful in some way: carrying messages, roof-spotting, as guides, or in any other way? They would like to wear some uniform, but if that were not possible it didn't matter so long as they could be useful. It was the right spirit, and I believe the motive was not only a boyish love of adventure but a genuine desire to help.

A MIRACLE

The people of Malta are proud, and rightly so, of their buildings, many of which are of great historic interest and architectural beauty. Many of these have, alas, been destroyed, and many more seriously damaged, much to the distress of the people. Some buildings have had remarkable escapes. I remember watching a raid one afternoon and

PRIORITY

Accompanied by a Negro driver, an American major in a motor vehicle was stopped by the sentry on guard at a cross-roads.

"Who goes there?"

"One American major, a one-ton truck of fertilizer, and one buck private."

They were allowed to proceed, but at every cross-roads they went through the same formula.

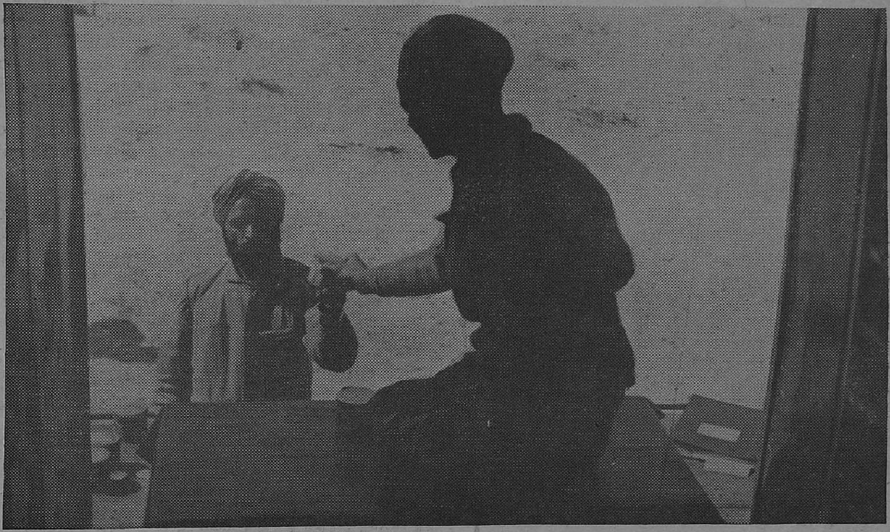
After a time the driver asked if they were likely to be stopped again.

"I guess so," replied the major.

"Well, major," said the private, "the next time we are stopped would you mind giving me priority over the fertilizer?"

I saw a bomb hit the dome of a church in a neighbouring village. The dome was a remarkably large one and the church was thought much of by the people of the village who had built it. I immediately went to the village, expecting to see a scene of great desolation. I entered the church and to my relief I found that the bomb, which was a very large one, had bored a neat hole in the dome but had not damaged the crypt underneath, in which a large number of people were sheltering. The people regarded the episode as a miracle, as indeed it was.

I have said very little about the garrison, but the fighting Services have of course played a great part in this epic struggle. Their co-operation with each other and with the civil population has been first-rate, and has contributed largely to the successful defence of the island. We used to say that Malta stood squarely on four legs—the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the civil population. The importance of a good understanding and mutual confidence between these four cannot be overestimated. The anti-aircraft guns of Malta have gained a world-wide reputation. These are manned by both British and Maltese personnel. In certain periods, when we were short of fighter aircraft, they largely bore the burden of defence—and well did they respond. The amount of practice they have had should have made them good, and they certainly are good. I remember in one month the guns alone destroyed over a hundred enemy aircraft for certain. The work of the fighter aircraft was also magnificent. Starting from nothing they have until recently always been fighting against odds, and sometimes very heavy odds. Between them and the guns a remarkable toll has been levied on the Axis air forces which has caused a continual drain on resources they can ill afford.



MOBILE WORKSHOP.—Photo taken at a workshop behind the lines in the desert where damaged trucks, carriers, guns and even tanks are repaired and returned to the battle zone. The storeman issues stores.

THE KING'S GRACIOUS ACTION

Life in Malta has been and still is serious and strenuous, and many of the amenities of life have had to be discarded. But while all concerned have kept up their courage and their spirits, they are glad when they see that their efforts and their contribution to the common cause are appreciated and understood. It was therefore with the greatest pleasure that they learnt of the delightful gesture of His Majesty the King, when he conferred the George Cross on the island. This delight was all the greater because the King's action was unexpected and without precedent. The appreciation of the people was enormous, and it gave them great encouragement. I venture to think that no honour has been better earned by any community. The most pleasant task which fell to my lot during my two years as Governor was to tell the people of the King's most gracious action.

One word more. I have purposely left to the last the point that really overshadows all others in importance. During these two years of the siege, I was very conscious of the good hand of God upon us, and I am sure that the continued safety of Malta was ultimately due to His Divine protection.

Russia's Master Plan : Resemblance to 1918 Strategy

WHAT is the master plan behind the daily news of the Russian blows in half a dozen different sectors of the enormous eastern front?

For on the eve of 1943 there is a master plan for Hitler's ultimate Russian discomfiture—make no mistake about it. I believe that the plan closely resembles the strategy of the Allies at the Western Front in 1918 and that in its usual rather indefinite way, history is repeating itself.

In the spring of this year just as in 1918 the German High Command had local superiority of force on the main battlefront which was unlikely to last more than a few months and it had decided how best to use its superiority to break down the enemy's resistance as quickly as possible and induce him to accept terms of peace. The Allied resources, like those of the Allies in 1918, were growing and if the critical period of temporary inferiority could be survived, the balance would then turn. more and more, in Russia's favour. The German aim was in each case to strike a swift and annihilating blow; that of their enemy was to gain time to hold out and be ready to pass to the offensive as soon as the German superiority disappeared.

The German strategy, both in 1942 and 1918, was to put the whole weight behind one heavy punch at a time and exploit it to the full in an endeavour to obtain a decision by smashing up hostile resistance. If they could rupture the hostile line and shatter it to fragments they might win this victory even at the eleventh hour; even though the time left while they still had the necessary superiority was short and fleeting.

THE TURNING POINT

We know the result in each case. In 1918, first on the Somme and then on the Aisne and the Marne, the Germans were within a reasonable distance of full success. The turning point came when the Germans had frittered away their superiority in a series of spectacular but abortive efforts and the Allies had accumulated enough reserves to pass to the offensive in their turn.

The same thing is repeating itself now in Russia. Both at Stalingrad and in the Caucasus, the Germans rushed forward with such vigour, speed and fury that it seemed they could not fail to rupture the Russian line and score a really decisive success. But they failed. In the end, worn-out with the chase of the phantom, they came to the end of their strength and had to halt. Now assured of increasing superiority over the enemy, our Allies are delivering a series of separate and inter-connected blows, each one aimed at one of the enemy's weak spots on his long and sinuous front.

MARSHAL FOCH'S PLAN

Marshal Foch in 1918 devised this plan of a series of short-range and quickly delivered punches aimed at one hostile weak point after another and broken off as soon as resistance stiffened in the front of each one so as to make further effort there uneconomical. As soon as this happened, another punch would follow in another sector which, if successful, would have the effect of creating another enemy pocket from where he would have to withdraw unless he was to risk having the troops holding it cut off and lost. The Russian High Command is using the same methods today.

It is the strategy of the side whose forces are growing in contrast to those of the enemy. So 1918 may thus serve as a forecast of 1943. And the ultimate issue of the contest between these rival strategists bids fair to be the same now as it was then.

—The *Daily Herald.*

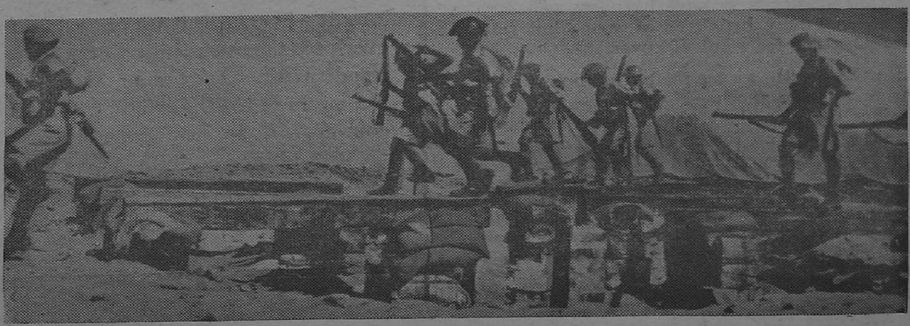
JAP JAZZ

"Jazz numbers are highly inappropriate to the present times," states a Japanese broadcast, announcing the banning of English and American dance tunes and popular songs. To anyone acquainted with Japanese Western style dance bands there is a good deal of unconscious humour in this announcement. Though Jazz is perhaps the most universally performed of Western music, and in many Eastern countries has a high standard of execution, the Japanese have undoubtedly been the least successful with it. Like many of their Western imitations, Japanese-performed Jazz has a machine-like and nondescript character—and usually at least one instrument out of time!

TOUGH TACTICS SCHOOL

Indians are taken from all Indian army units in the Middle East to go through a Tough Tactics School. Indian troops negotiate a sand-bagged wall at the double.

They have to negotiate many difficult obstacles, and as seen in the picture, rough stones are no deterrent.



Troops are here seen negotiating a difficult series of obstacles known as the fishnet.

Forced German Withdrawal

Contrast with Russian Planned Retreat

By LIEUT.-GEN. SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THE opening of New Year shows Germany everywhere on the defensive and in many places in retreat. The remarkable offensive in the south brought the Russians great success and a measure of this can best be gauged by the number of prisoners taken and booty captured rather than by any assessment of territorial reconquest.

It is in respect of the human material captured that we can see the great differences between the Russian retreat of the last summer and the German retreat of the present time. When Von Bock was advancing east with great rapidity, the Germans never laid claim to any large number of prisoners in the Don elbow but contented themselves with advertising the amount of Russian soil they had occupied. The Russians now advancing over the same terrain in the opposite direction are capturing German prisoners by tens of thousands and immense quantities of warlike stores. This gives the clue to the real difference between the two retreats.

TACTICS OF 1812

The Russians withdrew deliberately sacrificing territory in order to save the army. It was the tactics of 1812 all over again. It was because the withdrawal was well-planned and deliberately executed that the Germans were in the main only opposed by rearguards in the Don elbow. This accounted for the comparatively small number of prisoners—because only a small number of the Russian Army had been actively engaged.

The return journey has been a very different affair. The Germans never intended to give ground; they have been forced back by better tactics and superior generalship. If more proof were wanted to show that this is indeed so, we have only to ponder on the large dumps of food that have been captured. The German is not the man to lay in stocks and provisions for the benefit of the enemy. Most emphatically, the Germans had no intention of coming out of the Don elbow; they have been compelled to do so—not only by force of arms but to a certain extent for want of cover.

Further north, we see the beginnings of what may prove to be another big victory—for in the Leningrad region the Germans have less depth behind them than further south. The loss of Velikie Luki may well be the first step to great successes.

The Russian winter counter-offensive has been so remarkably successful that we must guard against expecting the pace of their advance to be kept up indefinitely. Further west they progress, the easier railway communications become for the Germans.

A glance at the railway map of Russia is most enlightening. It shows how much denser are the lines of rail west of the general line from Leningrad-Moscow-Voronezh-Krasnodar than east of it. This has been the result of the intensive development in the Donetz basin as an industrial area. But no matter what the cause, it gives the opponent facing east far better lines of communication behind.

SEVERITY OF RUSSIAN WINTER

The increasing severity of the Russian winter is of course another factor which favours the defenders who necessarily have lesser need to undertake large troop movements.

The lesson we should learn from the Russian counter-offensive is that our Allies have made remarkable use of the time which has been at their disposal but we cannot expect the present rate of progress to be kept up much longer.

In North Africa the very speed of the opening moves has made some people restless because the pace has slackened. Let us take a warning from this to anticipate the same development in Russia.

Communications are the key to military movements—and in developed countries railways are still the basic means of communication.

ALLIES ON THE WAY TO VICTORY

"When Hitler collapses he will become desperate. We are on our way to victory. I cannot say how long it will take but no one should overlook the possibility of a long rough road. 1943 may well see the prelude to the victory that is coming—if, so far from relaxing, we should increase our efforts."

—LORD HALIFAX, *the British Ambassador to U.S., in a speech in New York on January 18.*

New Chapter in Russian Winter Offensive

THE storming in five days of the ancient town of Velikie Luki, which fell to the Russians on New Year day, is not only a model for all such operations, says the *Daily Telegraph* Moscow correspondent. It opens a new chapter in the winter offensive along the front between Moscow and Leningrad. Within 24 hours of the storming of Velikie Lukie the Russian Railway Corps got the trains working.

There was one outstanding fact during the hellish hand-to-hand fighting for the town. Everywhere shrivelled women and pale children crawled out of the cellars under fire and led the Russian troops to the hidden German key-points. Among other guerillas was a 20-year old girl, Amara Proshago, who led the first wave of the assault showing the Russian troops the best ways into her town.

The German 83rd Division which was wiped out at Velikie Luki refused to surrender because it knew that the Panzer Division, with 70 extra tanks and artillery support, were still trying to break through to its relief. The final Russian assault was launched without a hitch.

It began on a surprise position after half an hour's artillery preparations. Within two hours the Russian guardsmen with their special mortar companies and sappers were crawling on right under the gun holes of the enemy strong points, while the fierce Usbek and Kazak soldiers from Central Asia had with tank support got a grip on the town's suburbs. Light artillery went right ahead with the infantry blasting the enemy gun-nests at point blank range. Altogether 130 German strong points were counted on these suburban fronts which were subjected to direct assault.

The huge Vyazma-Rzhev-Velikie Luki triangle has long been a threat to Moscow. The Russian assault on the triangle has been the Cinderella of their winter campaign. The German bastion at Rzhev remains on the direct line to Moscow. But the loop lines, northwards of this town, are being used to speed up the new and wider thrusts. The Velikie Luki region is marshy and studded with lakes and ponds. All are now frozen but they still impede transport. Most of the roads are poor.

After encircling or smashing 60 enemy Divisions in the first six weeks of their offensive, the Russians are determined to destroy even greater forces in the next 12 weeks—before the spring thaw. Russia wants to finish her war this year. Her armies intend to exploit their supreme winter mobility to the limit so that Hitler will not be able to attempt any further spring offensive here.

MacARTHUR VISITS HIS TROOPS.—General MacArthur, Allied Commander-in-Chief, is seen addressing a group of officers while on tour of inspection at the headquarters of an American division, somewhere in Australia.

Germans' Second Winter in Russia

THE Soviet Army's current campaign bears many resemblances to the winter campaign of 1941–42, but some differences are already discernible, writes Hanson Baldwin.

First, and most important, in this second winter war of attrition is the physical and moral effect on both sides—but particularly the moral effect on the Germans—which is cumulative. Second, the Nazis have assumed the defensive and have relinquished—or were forced to give up—the strategic initiative somewhat earlier in the season than they did last year. The Russian counter-attacks have thus mounted earlier and driven more rapidly into German-held territory than they did initially a year ago.

Giving the reasons for this, Hanson Baldwin quotes Ralph Parker, who wrote in the *New York Times* from Moscow that greater mobility, better co-ordination and improvement in command had enabled the Red Army to take more rapid advantage of its opportunities.

Proceeding, Hanson Baldwin declares that this third winter, according to reports from Russia, is not comparable in severity with last winter, which was one of the worst in Europe's history, and hence more manœuvrability on both sides is possible.

It is the second winter of the Russian war; German divisions that otherwise might be resting and recouping their strength are locked in death grapples, the Nazis are on the defensive, and in certain sectors they are probably in retreat.

HAVING A HARD TIME

German spokesmen are now dwelling on the heavy demands made on German troops who are fighting the Red Army in the present weather while harassed in the rear by partisans, writes *The Times* military correspondent. Berlin correspondents of Swiss newspapers have recently made the following points, manifestly from official inspiration: That early exhaustion of Russian offensive power is not to be assumed; that Russian tanks are of good quality and difficult to knock out; and that Russian tactics, though of a type "unknown to the west," are effective in this theatre and thoroughly understood by Red troops.

President Roosevelt's Sons

All four sons of the Roosevelts are now with the armed forces outside of continental United States. Marine Corps Major James Roosevelt is in the Solomons. The two youngest sons are Lieutenants aboard destroyers—John as a supply officer for four destroyers in the Pacific, Franklin Jr. as a gunnery officer on a destroyer in the Atlantic. Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott Roosevelt is with the Army Aviation Command in England.

BASIS OF PEACE

"All of us know that a mere military victory, important and essential as that clearly is, will not of itself bring us lasting peace. It is not a question what kind of peace victors would like to impose upon the vanquished, but, in the cold light of experience, how we can build a peace which is likely to prove enduring and which rests upon Christian fundamentals.

"The only way to make the peace secure, is to set up an international organisation for keeping that peace. This does not mean creating an overnight world government with sweeping general power to invade the domestic affairs of sovereign States.

"Presumably, these powers would include among others, power to prevent by concerted action territorial aggression, to regulate and control heavy armament building in every country of the world, power to administer and supervise the Government of certain backward and colonial areas and power by concerted action to attack certain discriminatory anti-social practices in the field of international trade and finance."

—MR. FRANCIS B. SAYRE, *Special Assistant to Mr. Cordel Hull, U S. Secretary of State, and former High Commissioner to the Philippines, in New York, on January 16.*

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

14th Jan.—The Royal Air Force raided Ruhr. Industrial plants in Lille were also attacked.

15th Jan.—General Sikorski, Polish Premier, arrived in Britain from United States.

Bombs were dropped in a few places in south-east England.

16th Jan.—The Royal Air Force bombed Berlin.

18th Jan.—Berlin was bombed again by the Royal Air Force. Large fires were started.

German aircraft raided London. Ten enemy planes were brought down.

20th Jan.—It was revealed in the Commons by Sir James Grigg, War Secretary, that British prisoners in Germany were still shackled.

Mr. Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister, said in the Commons: " Everywhere the initiative has passed into the hands of the United Nations."

21st Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked targets in Northern France.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

17th Jan.—Col. C. S. Booth, the Assistant Deputy Adjutant-General to the Canadian Military Headquarters in Britain, in an interview in Winnipeg, said he expected that the Allied forces would invade German-occupied Europe early in summer.

The United States War Production Board announced that the Government's war expenditure in 1942 totalled 52,406 million dollars or 169,100,100 dollars daily compared to 13,895 million in 1941.

19th Jan.—Lord Halifax (British Ambassador to United States) said: " When Hitler collapses, he will become desperate and have a crack at England. We are on our way to victory."

21st Jan.—Chilean Senate voted for break with Axis.

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Their guns held high to keep them dry, steel-helmeted United States parachutists advance through a stream toward the air field. They must pack their full equipment of course, even in such an emergency as this, for once on the ground, every man must eventually be " on his own."

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

14th Jan.—There was heavy fighting in Burma for Kathedaung. Indian troops captured Temple Hill. The Royal Air Force raided Shwebo district.

15th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked four Japanese-occupied villages in the Akyab area.

16th Jan.—The Royal Air Force shot down three enemy aircraft over Calcutta in four minutes.

17th Jan.—Japanese attacks near Rathedaung were repulsed.

18th Jan.—A Japanese convoy was attacked south of Rangoon by American aircraft. One cargoship was sunk and another damaged.

Japanese aircraft attacked Feni aerodrome in Chittagong area. One raider was shot down.

19th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked Taungoo aerodrome.

20th Jan.—Calcutta was again raided. One enemy plane was damaged.

A place near Rathedaung was captured by British troops.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

14th Jan.—Allied aircraft raided Tripoli.

15th Jan.—The Allies launched a new offensive. Allied aircraft raided the enemy landing ground at Mismata.

The Pretender to the French Throne, the Comte de Paris returned to Tangier.

16th Jan.—Iraq declared war on the Axis.

17th Jan.—There were air battles in Tunisia.

Twenty-three Axis planes were shot down.

Tripoli was bombed by Allied aircraft.

18th Jan.—Axis troops retreated in Tripolitania. The Allies were 130 miles from the capital.

19th Jan.—The Eighth Army advanced 80 miles from Buerat. Forty miles were covered in a day.

Two Axis supply ships were sunk in the Mediterranean.

20th Jan.—The Nazis launched an attack in Tunisia. The Fighting French captured more places in Tripolitania. The Eighth Army was 30 miles from Tripoli.

21st Jan.—Thirteen Axis vessels were sunk in the Mediterranean.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

14th Jan.—Nazi troops retreated in disorder in North Caucasus. The Soviet Caucasus and Kalmuk armies linked. The Russian army began mopping up Hitler's 22 trapped divisions in Stalingrad.

15th Jan.—Russian troops reached the east bank of the Donetz.

16th Jan.—The Red Army was within 60 miles of Rostov.

17th Jan.—The Russians were within two miles of Donetz. German lines near Voronezh were pierced and 17,000 prisoners were taken.

18th Jan.—The Russians captured Millerovo.

19th Jan.—The siege of Leningrad was lifted.

The Russians crossed the Donetz and recaptured the Voronezh–Kamensk line.

20th Jan.—The Russians won a major victory at Leningrad and Kamensk.

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SHIPPING

14th Jan.—The British corvette **Marigold** was lost.

16th Jan.—Two or three Nazi merchantships were bombed and hit by aircraft of the Coastal Command.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

16th Jan.—Hitler, fearing an Allied invasion through Germany's " back door, " gave orders to speed up fortifications in the Balkans.

18th Jan.—A regime, resembling a state of siege, was proclaimed in Lyons. Vichy and Nazi officers were attacked.

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THE FAR EAST

14th Jan.—American reinforcements were landed in Guadalcanar. Allied troops advanced in Sanananda.

15th Jan.—An American torpedo boat scored hits on two Japanese destroyers in the Solomons.

16th Jan.—General MacArthur opened a new front in New Guinea.

17th Jan.—The Chinese recaptured Loshan. Three Japanese destroyers were damaged in south-west Pacific. Allied troops broke through at Sanananda.

18th Jan.—Japanese resistance collapsed in Papua.

19th Jan.—Five Japanese ships were hit in Rabaul.

20th Jan.—Allied troops captured Cape Killerton and Wye Point.

A PAL EXPLAINS

A member of a Scots regiment was being decorated for gallantry.

"This soldier", said the officer presenting the medal, "stood his ground in the face of overwhelming numbers. Armed with a tommy-gun, he stood up to the enemy and refused to retreat an inch."

"Must have had his foot on that six pence I lost", muttered one of the hero's pals.

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